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DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SURVEYOR & SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

1949.

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RURAL DISTRICT OF DROITWICH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1949.

Public Health Department,

31, Ombersley Street,

Droitwich.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Droitwich Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Rural District for the year 1949.

The report is divided into the following sections :-

Section A.	Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.
Section B.	General Provision of Health Services for the area.
Section C.	Sanitary Circumstances of the area.
Section D.	Housing.
Section E.	Inspection and Supervision of Food.
Section F.	Prevalence of and control over Infectious Disease.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Margaret C. Fell, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

R. F. Fry, M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A., A.M. Inst. P.C.,
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

D. G. Carter, M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A.,
Additional Sanitary Inspector.

J. D. Hopgood, Cert. S.I.B.,
Technical Assistant to Surveyor.
(Appointed 10th October, 1949).

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SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	51,453
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949) according to Rate Books	4,221
Rateable Value	£80,711
Sum represented by one penny rate	£319. 13. 1.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1949)	13,650

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Live Births.			
Legitimate	117	97	214
Illegitimate	7	9	16

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 16.8
Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period 16.7

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Still Births.			
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths.			
From all causes	78	61	139

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population 10.1
Death Rate for England and Wales 11.7

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.			
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rate for the Year 26.1
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for the same period 32

Deaths from Special Causes.

	1948	1949
Deaths from Cancer	19	16
Deaths from Measles	-	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough	1	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	1

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-
Syphilitic Diseases	-	-
Influenza	-	-
Measles	-	-
Acute Polio-myelitis & Polio-encephalitis	-	-
Acute Infective Encephalitis	-	-
Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus; uterus	-	-
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1
Cancer of Breast	-	1
Cancer of all other sites	5	8
Diabetes	1	1
Intracranial vascular lesions	2	6
Heart diseases	22	18
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	1
Bronchitis	5	4
Pneumonia	4	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	1
Appendicitis	-	-
Other digestive diseases	2	3
Nephritis	4	1
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	-
Premature birth	1	1
Congenital malformations, birth injury and infantile diseases	1	-
Suicide	1	1
Road Traffic accidents	3	1
Other violent causes	5	-
All other causes	13	10

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, (Part III), the following services are provided by the County Council :-

   (a) Ambulance Service.

   (b) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service.

   Seven district nurse-midwives work in the Rural District. They attend maternity cases and cases of general illness and in most instances they carry out the duties of Health Visitor for their district.

   (c) Vaccination and Immunisation.

   Vaccinations and immunisation against diphtheria can be undertaken, free of charge, by the patient's own doctor, or at one of the County Council's clinics.

   (d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and Young Children.

   The district is served by the County Council's ante-natal clinics at Worcester, Kidderminster, Droitwich and Stourport-on-Severn, and by Infant Welfare Clinics at Droitwich, Worcester, Ombersley, Stourport-on-Severn, Hartlebury, Cutnall Green and Crowle.

2. Hospitals.

   The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester, Kidderminster and Birmingham.

   Cases of Infectious Disease are admitted to Hill Top Isolation Hospital, Bromsgrove.

   Maternity cases can be admitted to the Lucy Baldwin Hospital at Stourport-on-Severn, the Mary Stevens Maternity Home at Stourbridge and the Rigby Hall Maternity Home at Bromsgrove.

   Treatment for cases of Tuberculosis is provided in sanatoria at Hill Top, Bromsgrove, Knightwick and Worcester.

3. National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47).

   No action was taken by the Council under this section of the Act during the year.

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SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

(a) Existing Supplies.

So far as water supply is concerned, the Droitwich Rural District is divided into two areas; in one the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company and in the other area the Droitwich Rural District Council is the responsible authority.

The following table gives comparative details :-

	Company.	Council.
Area in acres	30,217	21,236
Number of Houses	2,084	1,964
Number of houses having piped water	280	561

The parish of North Claines and parts of St. Martin County, Warndon, and Hindlip are supplied with water purchased by the Council in bulk from the County Borough of Worcester and distributed through the Council's mains.

The source of this supply is the River Severn and proved sufficient in quantity and quality throughout the year, although the added demands in the Parish of North Claines has overloaded the pumping apparatus.

The parishes of Dodderhill, Upton Warren and part of the parish of Hadzor are supplied from the mains of the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, as they lie within the limits of the Company's statutory area of supply.

This supply was satisfactory throughout the year.

Seventy-three properties within the Parish of Hartlebury are served with piped water from a borehole in private ownership and this supply proved to be satisfactory during the year.

Forty-one properties in the Summerfield area of the Hartlebury parish are served from the Kidderminster mains.

Twenty-four council houses in the village of Ombersley have a piped water supply from the Council's borehole. The supply from this borehole continued to be good both in quantity and quality throughout the year and could very well serve other properties in the village.

Apart from those parishes mentioned above, the remainder of the rural district derives its water supply mainly from shallow wells. In many cases the supply from these is unsatisfactory both in quality and quantity.

Projected Schemes.

(1) Temporary supply for the Parish of Crowle.
(2) Extensions for the Parish of Martin Hussingtree.
(3) Extensions for Torton in the Parish of Hartlebury.
(4) Extension to supply Ombersley Village.
(5) Regional scheme for the South-east parishes.

THE FOLLOWING WATER SAMPLES WERE TAKEN DURING THE YEAR.

Date.	Address.	Source of Supply.	Result
6/ 1/49	Church Road, Crowle.....	Well.	Unfit
10/ 1/49	Waresley Supply, "St. Martin", Hartlebury	Borehole	Fit
13/ 1/49	Glebe Farm, Lineholt	Well.	Fit
18/ 1/49	1 - 4, Council Houses, Hay Lane, Ombersley.	Well.	Unfit
20/ 1/49	Ombersley Water Tower	Borehole	Fit
28/ 1/49	Crowle Nurse's House	Well.	Unfit
28/ 1/49	Tibberton Borehole No. 1	Borehole	Fit
1/ 2/49	Council Houses, Station Road, Fernhill Heath.	Worcester City Water Service.	Fit
2/ 2/49	Crowle Nurse's House	Well.	Unfit
2/ 2/49	Tibberton Borehole No. 2	Borehole	Fit
2/ 2/49	Tibberton Borehole No. 3	Borehole	Fit
23/ 2/49	Ombersley Water Tower	Borehole	Fit
25/ 2/49	3 & 4, Green Lane, Hadzor	Well.	Fit
9/ 3/49	1 - 4, Council Houses, Hay Lane, Ombersley.	Well.	Unfit.
22/ 3/49	Ombersley Water Tower	Borehole	Fit
25/ 4/49	Ombersley Water Tower	Borehole	Fit
3/ 5/49	Bassage Farm, Cutnall Green	Well.	Unfit
13/ 5/49	Mrs. Grey, Broughton Green	Well.	Unfit.
19/ 5/49	Hanbury Water Tower	Borehole	Fit
1/ 6/49	Ombersley Water Tower	Borehole	Fit
15/ 6/49	Froxmere Court, Crowle	Well.	Unfit
27/ 7/49	The Bungalow, Copcut	Well.	Unfit.
4/ 8/49	Housing Site, Fernhill Heath	Piped Supply.	Fit
4/ 8/49	Bassage Farm, Cutnall Green	Well.	Fit
16/ 8/49	The Bungalow, Copcut	Well.	Unfit
19/ 8/49	The Common, Broughton Green	Well.	Unfit
3/ 9/49	Cooksey Lodge Farm, Upton Warren	Well.	Unfit
8/ 9/49	The Bungalow, Copcut	Well.	Unfit
8/ 9/49	New Bungalow, Stock Green	Well.	Fit.
9/ 9/49	The Homestead, Fernhill Heath	Well.	Unfit
9/ 9/49	Cooksey Lodge Farm, Upton Warren	Spring	Unfit
11/10/49	Woodfield Cedars, Ombersley	Well.	Unfit
12/10/49	The Grove, Sytchampton	Well.	Fit
20/10/49	Dr. Smith, Ombersley, No. 1.	Well.	Unfit
20/10/49	Dr. Smith, Ombersley, No. 2.	Well.	Unfit
27/10/49	The Nook, Elmbridge	Well.	Unfit
7/11/49	Hindlip Court Farm	Well.	Unfit
16/11/49	Hownings Farm Cottage, Hanbury	Well.	Unfit
17/11/49	Jingle Joys Farm, Cutnall Green	Well.	Unfit
1/12/49	Chequers Inn, Cutnall Green	Borehole	Unfit
3/12/49	Field Farm, Hanbury	Well.	Unfit
6/12/49	Oak Tree Farm, Ladywood	Well.	Unfit

2. Sewerage & Sewage Disposal.

The projected schemes for the parishes of Hartlebury, Ombersley, Crowle, and Dodderhill were advanced during the year. In the case of Hartlebury where the proposed disposal is by pumping to the Kidderminster Joint Works, negotiations were concluded with the Kidderminster Borough Council and the Stourport Urban District Council, as to the terms for reception and treatment of the sewage. It is hoped that the public enquiry into this scheme will be held in the near future.

All the schemes are urgently required, but especially in the case of Hartlebury and Crowle where the present disposal gives rise to public nuisance.

The plant at Fernhill Heath continues to give a satisfactory effluent.

Extensions undertaken during the year.

(1) An extension of 200 yards in Summerfield Lane (Parish of Hartlebury).
(2) An extension of 100 yards in Dilmore Lane (Parish of North Claines).

3. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Refuse collection is carried out by the Council in the whole of the area. Collection is made by Council employees using hired vehicles. A weekly collection in the villages and a fortnightly collection in the outlying areas was made during the year.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping with the use of clinker as a covering material.

Details of the cost of refuse collection and disposal during last financial years ending 31st March are given below :-

	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.
Hire of Vehicles.	£2440	£2591	£2345	£2469
Wages.	£1096	£1080	£1478	£1460
Totals :-	£3536	£3671	£3823	£3929

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Good progress was made in the building of new houses in the district during the year with the result that a number of cases of overcrowding were relieved.

During 1949 a total of 123 houses were built in the district - twenty-nine by the local authority, eighty-six by other local authorities and eight by other persons.

At the time of writing this report six hundred and four new houses have been erected in the Rural District since the end of the War.

The need for houses is still urgent in practically every parish.

There are a number of unfit houses in the district which should be dealt with by Demolition Orders. It is hoped that it will be possible to take action in this matter when the housing situation improves.

The following table shows the housing work carried out in the district during the year :-

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

(i) By the local authority	29
(ii) By other local authorities (Worcester City in R.D.C. Area)	86
(iii) By other bodies or persons	8

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :-

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	60
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	137
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	Nil.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil.
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	58

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ... 50

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :-

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-

(a) By owners ..... Nil.

(b) By local authority in default of owners ..... Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-

(a) By owners 1

(b) By local authority in default of owners ..... Nil.

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... Nil.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..... Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..... Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein .....

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .....

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases.

(iii) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved .....

No detailed figures available.

Camping Sites and Temporary Dwellings.

The licenced camping grounds mainly situated near the River Severn were again fully occupied during the holiday periods and were kept under regular supervision by the Sanitary Inspectors.

The very assorted and growing collection of temporary dwellings along and near the riverside at Holt Fleet seriously depreciates the amenities of the district and it is hoped that when conditions permit vigorous action will be taken to improve this.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Regular inspections of premises where food is prepared, stored, or sold were made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year, and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

The following articles of food were condemned during the year :-

	No. of tins.	lbs.	ozs.
Hazel Nuts	-	33	-
Belgium Brawn	1	5	-
Beef & Vegetables	4	1	14
Salmon	2	1	-
Salmon	1	-	7¾

Milk Production & Distribution.

Registrations required by the Milk and Dairies Regulations were as follows :-

Registered Diary Farms	166
" Producers	144
" Purveyors	71

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations by the Council :-

Principal Pasteurisers Licences	3
Dealers for Tuberculin Tested Milk	3
Accredited Milk	3
Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk	2

Rodent Control.

Poisoning operations were carried out at every place where infestations were found namely at 12 business premises and 29 private dwellings. Of these, two cases were infestations by mice and the remainder were rat infestation.

Routine treatment of the Council's refuse tips and sewers was carried out and also the sewage works at Fernhill Heath.

The sewers at Fernhill Heath and Ombersley showed no signs of infestation, and satisfactory primary and secondary poisoning operations were carried out at Battenton tip during the year.

A part-time operator is employed by the Council. Only one major infestation was found.

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SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year two hundred and thirty-seven children completed a full course of immunisation and one hundred and twenty-four children received reinforcing doses.

Vaccination.

During the year one hundred and nineteen persons were vaccinated and six were re-vaccinated in the Rural District.

Notifiable Diseases.

The following tables give particulars of cases of infectious disease which were notified in the Rural District during the year :-

(Please see TABLES overleaf) --

The Incidence of cases of Notifiable Disease during 1949 is shown in the following table :-

	Under one year.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	10.	15.	20.	35.	45.	65.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hosp:	Total Deaths.
1. Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	1	7	1	1	-	-	-	-	11	5	-
2. Measles (excluding Rubella)	4	12	20	18	19	123	10	4	2	-	-	-	212	-	-
3. Whooping Cough.	3	6	6	11	2	17	5	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-
4. Acute Pneumonia (primary & influenzal)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	1	7	1	-
5. Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
6. Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	4	2	-
7. Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
8. Acute Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Totals	8	19	27	29	22	147	16	7	7	-	4	1	287	9	-

The following table shows the occurrence of Infectious Disease in Parishes during the year.

Parish.	Scarlet Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Acute Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica.
North Claines	-	27	7	1	-	-	-	-
Crowle	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dodderhill	2	9	2	1	-	1	-	-
Doverdale	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Elmbridge	-	2	6	3	-	-	-	-
Elmley Lovett	-	1	7	-	-	-	-	-
Hanbury	-	19	1	-	-	-	-	-
Hartlebury	3	71	15	2	-	2	-	-
Himbleton	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hindlip	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-
Martin Hussingtree	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oddingley	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ombersley	-	45	-	-	1	1	-	-
Salwarpe	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Martin Co.	2	10	6	-	-	-	-	1
Tibberton	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upton Warren	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Warndon	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westwood	-	5	3	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	11	212	50	7	1	4	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Deaths notified during 1949 :-

NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
17	3	1	1	4	2	1	-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cases remaining on Register at end of December, 1948	24	25	8	4
Cases remaining on Register at end of December, 1949	37	26	8	5

We are,

Your obedient Servants,

MARGARET C. FELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

R. F. FRY,

Surveyor & Chief Sanitary Officer.